

# Bachelor of arts in music is new option

Degree will provide more general curriculum, other career choices than teaching, performing

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Kentucky State University music majors no longer have to become either performers or teachers.

The KSU Board of Regents approved Friday adding a bachelor of arts in music.

The university already has a bachelor of music, which is a specified degree in either performance or music education, said Barbara Buck, chairwoman of the division of fine arts. The bachelor of arts in music will be a more general course

study of the university and division's offerings.

Adding a bachelor of arts in music will meet the university's mission of offering more liberal arts degrees, Buck said.

It also will give students greater freedom in their course selection, said Carl H. Smith, director of choral activities.

"I see a great benefit in terms of a student wanting to pursue another profession, but wanting to keep music as an activity to participate in as a member of the community," Smith said. "(The new

degree) gives students an opportunity to widen their horizons academically and intellectually."

The bachelor of arts in music does not require the recitals, student teaching and teaching method courses mandated by the bachelor of music, Smith said.

However, for students who are uncertain of what career they want to pursue but like music, the bachelor of arts gives them a basic foundation, Smith said. Later, if they decide they want to be performers or music educators, they can come back and pick up a few more music

courses or the requirements for a teaching certificate.

The decision must be approved by President Mary Evans Sias, forwarded to the Council on Postsecondary Education and then goes into effect.

Since it meets the same standards as the bachelor of music, it does not have to go through a 45-day review at the Council on Postsecondary Education, said Juanita Fleming, vice president for academic affairs.

In other business, Joyce Owens was sworn in as the new staff regent.